

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Claims 1-10 (Canceled)**

11. (New) A mat for reducing the disturbance of particulate matter by wind, the mat including:

- (a) a first layer of coarse mesh material; and
- (b) a second layer of coarse mesh material;

wherein the first layer is held in a substantially fixed position relative to the second layer.

12. (New) A mat according to claim 11 wherein the mesh material is a knitted material with average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm, and the average separation between the first and second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm.

13. (New) A mat according to claim 12 wherein the mesh material is formed from plastics fibres.

14. (New) A mat according to claim 13 wherein each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50%.

15. (New) A mat according to claim 14 wherein each layer of the mesh material has a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50km/h.

16. (New) A helicopter landing mat, including one or more mats according to claim 10, further including a peripheral region which has a greater mass per unit area than the mesh material, wherein the first layer is attached to the second layer in the peripheral region.

17. (New) A helicopter landing mat according to claim 16, wherein the mat has a length and a width which exceed the rotor span of a helicopter.

18. (New) A method of reducing the disturbance of particulate matter on a surface by wind, including the steps of:

- (a) covering the surface with a mat which has a first layer of coarse mesh material and a second layer of coarse mesh material, the first layer being held in a substantially fixed position relative to the second layer; and
- (b) fixing the mat to the surface at a plurality of points around the periphery of the mat.

19. (New) A method of reducing the disturbance of particulate matter on a surface by wind according to claim 18, wherein each layer of the mesh material is a knitted material made from plastics fibres with average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm, and the average separation between the first and second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm, and each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50% and a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50km/h.